

Objective 2.2: Increase the number of students pursuing environmental careers and strive for more cultural, economic and geographical diversity among those students.

Action Items:

- Collaborate with other organizations, colleges and universities to promote diversity in the field.
- Identify research and programs that address diversity and environmental education. Provide this information to environmental educators and to the public through the N.C. Office of Environmental Education's Web site.
- Identify barriers to participating in environmental education and methods to overcome these barriers.

Objective 2.3: Increase awareness of and the use of environmental education professional standards for North Carolina educators.

Action Items:

- Correlate the state curriculum standards to the North American Association for Environmental Education's PreK-12 *Guidelines for Learning*.
- Promote the use of the North American Association for Environmental Education's *Guidelines for Excellence* to environmental educators across the state. Facilitate opportunities for training on how to use the *Guidelines for Excellence* and encourage program providers to use it when developing or revising environmental education workshops or curricula.
- Incorporate the North American Association for Environmental Education's *Guidelines for Excellence* into the N.C. Environmental Education Certification Program requirements.
- Work with stakeholders and key partners to assess the N.C. Environmental Education Certification Program and incorporate changes that raise the standards for certifying environmental educators.
- Continue to evaluate the N.C. Environmental Education Certification Program to meet national standards established by the North American Association for Environmental Education.
- Incorporate training in instructional methodologies for educators seeking to earn Environmental Education Certification. Provide networking and partnership opportunities for formal and nonformal educators.
- Incorporate knowledge of the foundations of environmental education into the N.C. Environmental Education Certification Program.
- Promote resources on how to practice developmentally appropriate education.
- Assess the needs of educators and incorporate changes into the N.C. Environmental Education Certification Program that reflect environmental education standards and best practices in education.